1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1963 MK4 Trucial Oman MK 4
Qatar MK 3

FIG. 1—Location map of Trucial 'Oman and Qatar, showing various reported boundaries.

number of cattle is small. Wells are far apart; many are brackish, and only a few have sufficient water for surface or subsurface irrigation. Thus the whole peninsula of Qatar contains only two or three struggling date gardens. Larger wells are reported below the foothills of the mountains of 'Oman, which explain the more extensive date gardens there (similar to those of the Batinah Coast, on the east side of the mountain range) and the cultivation of some cereals. The total population is small and largely migratory. Estimates range from 7000 to 25,000 for Qatar, and from 40,000 to 105,000 for the remainder of the coast, concentrated in the northeastern part; from the base of the Qatar peninsula to Abu Dhabi the coast is reported to be virtually empty of human beings today, except for a few Bedouins migrating from the inland wells of Liwa.[1]

Because of the scanty endowment of the land, occupations deriving revenue from the sea became dominant. The port of Sharjah was reported to send 350 boats to the pearl fishery and to have in addition about a hundred fishing boats.[2] Pearling is generally limited to a small but indented stretch of coast near this port, and receipts are believed to fluctuate substantially from year to year.[3] The growth of both fishing and pearling is assumed to be rela-

[1] W[ilfred] Thesiger: Across the Empty Quarter, *Geogr. Journ.*, Vol. 111, 1948, pp. 1–21; reference on p. 9.

[2] S. B. Miles: The Country and Tribes of the Persian Gulf (2 vols., London, 1919), Vol. 2, p. 442.

[3] Raymond O'Shea: The Sand Kings of Oman (London, 1947), p. 132.

1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1963 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4 QATAR MK3

TABLE I—STATES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PERSIAN GULF REGION
(The population is the estimated settled population.)

STATE	POLITICAL STATUS	CAPITAL AND POPULATION	REPORTED BOUNDARIES	REMARKS
QATAR*	Trucial sheikhdom until 1868; British confirmation of independent British-protected status in 1913 and 1916.	Doha	East-west across the peninsula from Khor el Odeid; area given as 4500 square miles.	Resident British representative since 1950; no statistical information available except data on crude-oil exports; dispute with Bahrein on rights in the northwest end of peninsula.
ABU DHABI	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Abu Dhabi, 4000 to 10,000	On the coast west at Khor el Odeid, east at Khor al Ghanadha; one day's camel journey inland; area given as 2500 square miles.	In area probably the largest of the present Trucial states; the town of Abu Dhabi is connected to the mainland by a causeway covered with water at high tide, and has a poor supply of drinking water; good relations with the Bedouins of the region are reported.
DIBAI	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Dibai, 20,000	On the coast west at Khor al Ghanadha, east at Abu Hail; area given as 1500 square miles.	The town of Dibai is probably the largest of the region, containing the local market for pearls and the office of the local representative of the petroleum concessionaire; seaplane base; the town is located on the most navigable creek of the area and is occasional port of call for steamers from overseas; recent visitors report friction between the sheikh and local Bedouins and with the descendants of the former ruling family (until last century) resident at Dairah, across the creek from Dibai.
SHARJAH	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Sharjah, 3000 to 15,000	Encloses sheikhdom of Ajman; stretches inland to Dhaid.	Aerodrome with fortified compound for passengers' accommodation; offshore pearling grounds; residence of British representative for the Trucial Coast; formerly overlord of Ras al Khaima and other sheikhdoms, and thus most important political power in the region; the town of Sharjah is visited by steamers from India.
AJMAN	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Ajman 2000	Sometimes reported entirely enclosed by territory of Sharjah; also reported as touching territory of Ras al Khaima; area given as 150 square miles.	Sometimes reported to be tributary to Sharjah; sheikh keeps a riding stable.
UMM AL QAIWAIN	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Umm al Qaiwain, 2000	Includes the oasis Falaj al Ali; area given as 250 square miles.	In the past more important than today; frequently at war during the nineteenth century; sometime before 1883 part of Sharjah, and again from 1938 to 1944; the town of Umm al Qaiwain is located on a small peninsula.
RAS AL KHAIMA	Trucial sheikhdom since 1919.	Ras al Khaima, 3000	On the coast west at Jazirat al Hamra, east at Sha'am; reported to extend inland but exclude the mountainous area.	In the past tributary to Sharjah; in 1952 the sheikh refused to give permission for the establishment of a flying-boat base; in contrast with other sheikhdoms, a large part of the revenue is derived from the sale of dates.

1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1953 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4

TABLE I—*Continued*

STATE	POLITICAL STATUS	CAPITAL AND POPULATION	REPORTED BOUNDARIES	REMARKS
KALBA	Trucial sheikhdom since 1937.	Kalba, 3000 to 5000	On the coast of the Gulf of 'Oman north at Dibba, south at Khor Kalba; includes territory on the west side of the mountains of 'Oman.	In the past tributary to Sharjah.
'OMAN	Independent British-protected sultanate.	Muscat, 500,000	Enclave on the peninsula of Musandam west at Sha'am, east at Dibba; main territory on Gulf of 'Oman east of Khor Kalba.	'Oman sovereignty over peninsula of Musandam established with British help.
OTHER TERRITORIES				
FUJAIRAH	Sheikhdom without Trucial status.	....	Probably enclave in Kalba located primarily near the Gulf of 'Oman.	In the past probably tributary to Sharjah.
BURAIMI	Neutral area claimed by Saudi Arabia, 'Oman, and Abu Dhabi.	5000	Probably bounded by many Trucial sheikhdoms and 'Oman.	Inland oasis reported before 1925 and today under the influence of Abu Dhabi.
HAFIT	Reported joint property of Abu Dhabi and 'Oman.	....	....	Near Buraimi.
DHAID	Reported as neutral part of Sharjah, and part of Kalba.	....	....	On Muscat road from the Persian Gulf to Gulf of 'Oman.
LIWA	Political control nowhere described.	....	....	Southwest of Abu Dhabi; reported to be trading with Abu Dhabi.

[a] Parts of the region between the boundaries of Qatar and the town of Abu Dhabi may be territory of Saudi Arabia. South of the town of Abu Dhabi there may be territory of the Trucial sheikhdoms or of Saudi Arabia or of 'Oman or of Aden Protectorate.

As Sir Percy Cox[1]

writes: "The relative position of the Principalities . . . depends almost entirely on the personalities of the ruling Shaikhs for the time being. Unfortunately, owing to the chronic prevalence . . . of . . . feuds, they have for the last few generations been a short-lived 'class.'" Besides the territories of the sheikhs, there are neutral areas. In one of them, the Buraimi Oasis, near the border of 'Oman, a durbar (an official meeting of all the Trucial sheikhs with a British representative) took place in 1945;[8] this inconveniently located place was selected because sheikhs' wars prevented the choice of a better place near the coast. Another neutral area (although there seems to be a difference of opinion on its status) is the oasis of Dhaid,[9] on the motorcar route from Sharjah to the

[8] O'Shea, *op. cit.* [see footnote 3, above], p. 171. See below (p. 204) for other claims to Buraimi.

[9] *Ibid.*, p. 156. See also Desmond Vesey-Fitzgerald: From Hasa to Oman by Car, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 42, 1952, pp. 544-560; reference on p. 553.

[1] [For footnote, see p. 197 of text -- Analyst]

1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1953 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4
Qatar MK3

In addition, water-distilling plants, hospitals, and other installations were set up by the oil company. The first regular police force in the whole southeastern Persian Gulf region is now being established, paid out of the oil revenues. As a result of the economic growth of the state, a British government representative is now permanently stationed in the area, and the first modern bank has opened its offices at Doha, which is assuming some of the functions of a capital city.

Qatar's revenues from oil royalties are estimated to have been about $4,200,000 in 1951. A profit-sharing scheme between the company and the sheikh took effect in September, 1952, and, based on current petroleum production and prices, Qatar's share in the future annual profits is estimated at about $12,000,000.[13]

Impact of Oil Development

From the descriptions of recent visitors it appears that cessation of warfare must precede the effective development of the resources of the Trucial Coast. The drawing of permanent boundaries will be a prerequisite for a truce on land as well as for the division of royalties and possible profit participation schemes. There may already be agreement on some coastal points for boundary delimitation (Table I); inland, perhaps because of the absence of marked physical features, there seem to be no traditional points that might assist in the establishment of boundaries. Some sheikhs are reported to be ready to agree to definite boundaries; for, as Codrai[14] reports, "their appetites [are] wetted [*sic*] by concession subsidies." Writing about the same time, Sir Olaf Caroe[15] remarks that "there will be a scramble to assert and establish rights over land which may be disputed between two or more Shaikhs . . . The worst instincts . . . may then have full play." So far, no announcements of definite boundary decisions or of a general truce in the land fighting have been made, and all the available evidence appears to confirm Sir Olaf Caroe's pessimistic prediction. Meanwhile, for example, the concession of Abu Dhabi reads (translated from the Arabic): "And if in the future there should be carried out a delimitation of the territory belonging to Abu Dhabi . . . then the area (of this Agreement) shall coincide with the boundaries provided in such delimitation."[16] The Bedouins of Trucial 'Oman and their rights and ambitions further complicate the problem; for many of them roam also over territory that may be part of Saudi Arabia, or 'Oman, or Qatar, or possibly even Aden Protectorate.

[13] Calculated from the *Petroleum Press Service*, Vol. 19, No. 10, London, October, 1952, p. 356.

[14] R. A. Codrai: 'Oman, Including the Trucial Coast, *Canadian Geogr. Journ.*, Vol. 40, 1950, pp. 184–192; reference on p. 192.

[15] Wells of Power (London, 1951), p. 22.

[16] Quoted in *Petroleum Press Service*, Vol. 19, No. 1, January, 1952, p. 6.

1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1953 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4
Qatar MK3

even Aden Protectorate. Present boundaries with these states are vague. Vesey-Fitzgerald,[17] for example, reports that "it seems generally agreed that the [salt pan] Sabkha Mutti forms the boundary" between Saudi Arabia and Trucial 'Oman. Other authorities, including the British Foreign Office Peace Handbook,[18] locate the boundary of Trucial 'Oman at Khor el Odeid, at the base of the peninsula of Qatar, and thus exclude Saudi Arabia from the Persian Gulf east of Qatar. The World Aeronautical Chart[19] shows undemarcated territory of Trucial 'Oman between the 51st and 52nd meridians. Boundaries farther inland are subject to even wider disagreement. Some recent American maps[20] show the whole of the northern Rub' al Khali as part of Saudi Arabia and restrict Trucial 'Oman roughly to the area northeast of the town of Abu Dhabi. A map in the Middle East reference book[21] shows territory of Aden Protectorate to the south of the Liwa Oasis where other maps locate Saudi Arabian territory. Vesey-Fitzgerald[22] reports that the country east of the Sabkha Mutti salt swamp "for the distance of 'one camel journey' inland is Trucial territory. What happens beyond the one day's journey nobody knows." The Sultanate of Muscat and 'Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,[23] and the Trucial sheikhs, including the sheikh of Abu Dhabi, claim the Buraimi Oasis; the oasis of Hafit is described as jointly owned by the sultan of 'Oman and the sheikh of Abu Dhabi.[24] Coastal points of the eastern boundary of Trucial 'Oman agreed on are Khor Kalba and Dibba on the Gulf of 'Oman and Sha'am on the Persian Gulf; this creates an exclave of 'Oman in the peninsula of Masandam.[25] Iran has also put forward claims to both Qatar and the Trucial Coast, based on tributes paid by sheikhs of the area to Iran centuries ago, and also on the presence of a small Iranian minority

[17] *Op. cit.* [see footnote 9, above], p. 549.

[18] *Loc. cit.* [see footnote 6, above].

[19] Sheet 547, Bahrayn Island, 1 : 1,000,000, 3rd edit., Aeronautical Chart Service, U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., 1950.

[20] For example, as shown by J. T. Duce of the Arabian American Oil Company in "The Near East Today," a paper read before the American Petroleum Institute, November 7, 1951.

[21] "The Middle East," 2nd edit., Europa Publications, London, 1950, p. 7.

[22] *Op. cit.* [see footnote 9, above], p. 549.

[23] Wilfred Thesiger: Desert Borderlands of Oman. *Geogr. Journ.*, Vol. 116, 1950, pp. 137–171; reference on p. 140. The *New York Times* printed the following in its issue of October 12, 1952: "The Saudi Arabian Government denied through its embassy in Washington last night that any of its armed forces were in the Buraimi region near the Persian Gulf. The British Foreign Office was reported to have said Thursday that forty armed Saudi-Arabians had occupied an oasis claimed by the Sultanate of Masqat (Muscat). In its statement King Ibn Saud's embassy charged that the British had sent troops and planes to the area."

[24] O'Shea, *op. cit.* [see footnote 3, above], p. 177.

[25] Bertram Thomas: The Musandam Peninsula and Its People the Shihuh, *Journ. Central Asian Soc.*, Vol. 16, 1929, pp. 71–86.

1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1953 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4
Qatar MK3

in the towns along the coast. A further basis of the Iranian claim is the high proportion of the trade of the region that appears to flow to and from Iran, and is in the hands of Iranian traders, many of whom have migrated to the coast in the last 25 years. In 1951 discussions were reported to have begun between Great Britain and Saudi Arabia regarding the boundaries between the various British protectorates and Saudi Arabia, but at the time of this writing (late 1952) no conclusions have been announced.

Despite these political uncertainties and the resulting absence of civil authority, test wells are being drilled in Trucial 'Oman. Two in the sheikhdom of Dibai (at Jebel Ali and Ras Sedr) have been abandoned at a depth of 12,000 feet. A third well, in the sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi, is now planned, 12 miles inland from Tarif. Because of the shallow waters off Tarif, drilling equipment and other supplies will have to be discharged at Zubaya, 65 miles distant. As in Qatar, considerable local construction will be necessary before any commercial production of oil can be undertaken.

Since President Truman's claim in 1945 to United States jurisdiction over the resources located underneath the shallow seas of the continental shelf off the United States, no fewer than eleven states in the Persian Gulf area have asserted similar, if not more sweeping, rights, in spite of the absence of many boundaries on land.[86] Probably most of these claims contradict one another. So far, oil has been struck at only one point offshore in the Persian Gulf, in the extreme northwest part, effectively claimed by Saudi Arabia. However, even before this discovery the sheikhs of Qatar and Abu Dhabi, independently of each other, had granted concessions to their proclaimed offshore resources to another company, which is not a partner in the Saudi Arabian oil concession or in the Iraq Petroleum Company. In both cases the subsidiaries of this company holding the oil concessions from Qatar and from the sheikhdoms of Trucial 'Oman complained that these offshore concessions infringed on their rights, which they maintained included all resources under the jurisdiction of the sheikhs. Both disputes were arbitrated under the terms of the concession agreements. In 1950 the arbitrator in the case of Qatar, Lord Radcliffe, distinguished between the territory of Qatar, which includes the sea and subsurface resources up to the three-mile limit, and other rights of Qatar in the open sea beyond the three-mile limit. Throughout the territory of Qatar as defined by the arbitrator the concession of the Iraq Petroleum Company's subsidiary is valid; elsewhere, wherever

[86] S. W. Boggs: National Claims in Adjacent Seas, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 41, 1951, pp. 185–209, summarizes the complicated situation before arbitration.

1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1953 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4
Qatar MK3

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Qatar has rights under the sea, the concession holds.[27] In a somewhat different context the concessions of Abu Dhabi were similarly defined by the arbitrator, Lord Asquith, in 1951.[28] Neither of the arbitrations, however, touched on the states' boundaries in or under the Persian Gulf, which therefore remain open to dispute.[29] It is now possible that, in view of the action of the United Nations proposed by the International Law Commission,[30] rights to resources underneath shallow seas will be defined according to technological criteria of exploitation rather than geographical proximity. Should the United Nations act speedily on this proposal, the evolution of the maritime status of the Trucial sheikhdoms may continue to precede the establishment of political order on land.

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[27] In 1952 the nonterritorial concession was surrendered by the concessionaire. It was subsequently acquired by the Royal Dutch Shell, which is a partner in the Iraq Petroleum Company.

[28] In 1952 the nonterritorial concession was abandoned by the concessionaire

[29] Several petroleum trade journals have given the area of the Qatar nonterritorial concession as 10,200 square miles. This measurement would indicate definite boundaries in the Persian Gulf; however, no authority for such boundaries appears to be available.

[30] United Nations, Report of the International Law Commission, General Assembly, Official Records, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 9 (A/1858). New York, 1951, pp. 16 ff.

2: O'Shea G-3 (1944-1945) 1947 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4

101 Brideaux, in the last century. Formerly this part of the coast was known in English official literature as 'The Pirate Coast', on account of the prevalence of piracy in these waters, although the Arabs call it *Sahil 'Oman* (Oman Coast) or *Shamal*, after the hot north wind which blows across the Gulf.

648 In 1853, a Treaty or 'Truce' was signed between the British
175 Government and the five principalities—Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Umm-al-Quwain and Sharjah. This 'perpetual truce' provided for the entire cessation of liabilities at sea amongst the signatories and imposed on the British Government the duty of enforcing peace, and obtaining reparation for maritime aggression committed in contravention of the agreement. The sheikhs are, therefore, styled 'Trucial Sheikhs'.

A second treaty was signed in 1892, by which the sheikhs bound themselves not to enter into any agreement or correspondence with any power other than the British Government; not to permit without the sanction of the British Government the residence within their territory of the agent of any other government, and not to sell, cede, mortgage or otherwise give for occupation, any part of their territories, save to the British Government.

By these two treaties preferential, and almost exclusive relations were created between the British Government and the Trucial chiefs, and the former appears to assume the moral obligation to protect the sheikhs in so far as they may be endangered or disabled from defending themselves. It should be noted that, under the treaty of 1853, the trucial obligations of the sheikhs only extend to their maritime activities and not to the interior of their domains.

131 There is some disagreement amongst geographers as to the
101 definition of the term 'Oman', which in some maps is made to cover the whole of the promontory as far east as Muscat. In practice, the Trucial Oman coast is that territory which lies to the west and south of the Western Hajar mountains, including the Shamailiyah range, and extends almost to Qatar and the Ar Rimal section of the Rub-al-Khali desert. East of the Hajar mountains, on the Gulf of Oman, the country is known as Oman, and is under the rule of the Sultan of Muscat, although sometimes the term Oman is applied to the whole of this promontory.

131 Upon the coast, Trucial Oman extends in the Gulf of Oman from Khor Kalba to Dubai, and in the Persian Gulf from Sha'am to Khor-al-Odaid. Inland its frontiers are more difficult to define, but they cover a considerable portion of the interior of the Oman

2: O'Shea G-3 (1944-1945) 1947 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4

promontory. On one side it is bounded by a line running from Dubai and the village of Bai'ah on the east coast to Ras Sha'am on the west coast, and so divides it from the Ruus-al-Jibal district of the Oman Sultanate to the north; on another, by a line which leaves the Gulf between Khor Kalba and Murair, and excluding the Mahadah and Jau districts to the south, joins Khatam. Westwards of Khatam the inland limit of Trucial Oman is at the commencement of the Rub-al-Khali and Jafurah deserts.

Geographically, the Trucial Oman coast consists of a maritime belt, or taff, and islands; of inland plains, and of a mountain system. The eastern coast, that washed by the Gulf of Oman, is bold, somewhat resembling the coast of Ruus-al-Jibal, and the hills in places come down to the water's edge. The western coast, lying within the Persian Gulf, is low and monotonous, although in the north it is diversified by occasional date groves, especially by those of the Sur tract between Rams and Ras-al-Khaimah, but as the coast trends away to the south and west the trees languish, and at Abu Dhabi they cease altogether. The hills also, which at Ras-al-Khaimah town form a pleasing background, rapidly recede inland and are soon lost to view from seaward as the coast is followed to the south-west.

Salt-water creeks abound on this coast, and the lagoons of Ras-al-Khaimah town and near the town of Abu Dhabi have a considerable superficies, yet there are no inlets of real importance. At Dubai there is a fairly large creek which is used as an alighting area for flying-boats, and another at Sharjah town, which is too shallow even at high-tide to be of any use. The creeks sometimes unite inland to form backwaters and mangrove swamps, which are separated by a short distance only from the coast; and quasi-islands, some inhabited and some not, are created in this manner.

Beyond Abu Dhabi, as far as Khor-al-Odaid, the coast is almost unknown; it is barren and generally low, but has some bluff headlands. The only eminence and conspicuous landmark on the coast of Trucial Oman, Dhafrah being excluded, is Jabal-al-Ali, in Dubai territory. In the Gulf of Oman the sea is deep and at no great distance from shore, but in the Persian Gulf it is open and free from dangers if somewhat shallow; here the coast lies open to the full fury of the Shamal, but there are no harbours or sheltered anchorages except for boats, and landing is often difficult. West of Sharjah the coast is a labyrinth of islands, shoals and reefs, imperfectly surveyed and so intricate that even Arab vessels, if larger than

000 of oil exploitation, have visited the interior of Central Arabia and the coastal regions of Basra, Kuwait, or the Hedjaz. The independent principalities of Oman, however, and the vast desert of Rub-al-Khali to the south-west, are not so well known. Large tracts of this region, several hundred square miles in extent, have never been traversed. Not only no European, but, in some cases, no Arab, has trod their lonely sands. St. John Philby, who describes his experiences with Scriptural clarity in *The Empty Quarter*, did indeed cross the Rub-al-Khali from Dhufar to Qatar, but since this vast desert is almost a thousand miles wide, his remarkable journey cannot be regarded as adding more than a fragment to our minute knowledge of this 'lost world'. Since then, Allied pilots and, in one instance, Italians who set out from Eritrea to bomb Bahrein and Abadan but who never returned to their base, have flown over the Rub-al-Khali and have contributed some valuable reconnaissance photographs and survey records, but the desert from Salala to Muscat and from Muscat to Bahrein still holds secrets which may possibly remain untold for a century from now.

● 131 The region known as Oman lies in south-east Arabia between the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. In area it is about the size of Ireland. The inhabited portion extends from the Oman sultanate, north of Muscat, to the Tafurah desert in the west. The fort which was my headquarters at Sharjah, a small inland principality, was situated in what is known as the Trucial Oman Coast.

133 One normally thinks of the desert as being one vast expanse of sand, rather like the sandy plains of North Africa. In Oman this monotony of landscape is not so prevalent. From Ras-al-Khaimah, on the northern shore, to Muscat in the south, there runs a chain of mountains, in places fifty miles wide, with peaks rising to 8,000 feet. Mostly volcanic, they are composed of black basalt, igneous rocks and red sandstone, the different stratæ forming a picturesque *mise-en-scène* when viewed from the distance. Inland, especially in the winter months, the wadhis become foaming torrents and in the valleys the land is clothed in tender green; frankincense and acacia trees, broom and scented clover, yield a fragrance equal to the sweetest perfume of violets in a Devon lane. Then, scattered through this region in the vicinity of the wells, are large date plantations and village gardens verdant with pomegranate and fig trees. Even the desert itself could scarcely be termed barren, for it is mostly covered with various species of shrub and low, sap-filled plants of the stone-crop order. I have seen the most arid parts

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3: Melamid S-3 (no date) 1954 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4

rural and town populations there is a constant proportion of two to one. The average distance between "dorps" (villages with a population of some 2000) is 72 miles, and each dorp serves an average area of 2696 square miles. In contrast, a population center of about the same size in the canton of Zurich serves an average area of only 20 square miles. The wide-mesh distribution and great distances between central services are both costly and inconvenient and are only partly offset by the fact that every farm is able to supply its working population with essential foods such as corn and with tobacco. The present trend in the Karroo is a scientific attempt to adapt the economy more closely to the environment.—DONALD R. PETTERSON

ASIA

OIL AND THE EVOLUTION OF BOUNDARIES IN EASTERN ARABIA. Since my research for the paper on the "Political Geography of Trucial 'Oman and Qatar" (*Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 43, 1953, pp. 194–206) was completed, hopes for the discovery of oil have led to further developments in the evolution of states and boundaries in eastern Arabia.

In Trucial 'Oman the maritime truces and treaties with Great Britain oblige the sheikhs (the so-called "Trucial sheikhs") to enforce the agreements (for example, suppression of slave trade) in their own territories. In the neutral areas of Trucial 'Oman no Trucial sheikh has any authority, yet Great Britain cannot enforce the treaties either, for they leave all affairs on land exclusively in the hands of the sheikhs. These shortcomings, particularly significant today in matters of oil concessions and development, have caused the abandonment of the concept of neutral areas in Trucial 'Oman. Such areas are now considered to be part of the territory of one or another of the Trucial sheikhs, who are thus able to exercise their authority. For similar reasons the Trucial sheikhdom of Kalba, the subject of many disputes, is no longer recognized; its former territory is now parceled among other Trucial sheikhdoms. The sheikhdom of Fujaira, which effectively occupies an area near the Gulf of 'Oman, has now been elevated to Trucial rank, with all rights and obligations. As the result of these developments, political conditions in Trucial 'Oman are much more stable today than ever before. This fact in itself, independent of the discovery of oil, may account for recent economic growth.[1] The accompanying table summarizes some of the recent changes in the seven Trucial sheikhdoms of 'Oman. Additional information, particularly for the guidance of travelers, is available in the "Handbook on the Persian Gulf" published by the British Foreign Office (1953). No demarcation of boundaries between Trucial sheikhdoms has yet been reported, and since the basic political relations between the sheikhs remain the same, war may flare up at any time, though in view of the recent economic changes this is believed to be less likely than before.

With the abandonment of the concept of neutral areas in Trucial 'Oman, six villages of the oasis—or, rather, group of oases—called Buraimi (Muwaiqih, Mataradh, Al Ain, Jimi, Qattara, and Hilli), inhabited by the Abu Falah tribe, are now considered to be, and are administered as, a part of Abu Dhabi. The village of Buraimi, inhabited by the Naim tribe, which is reported to graze its herds to the east of the oasis, is part of the Sultanate of Muscat and 'Oman, and thus outside Trucial 'Oman. The remaining village of the oasis, Hamasa, inhabited by the Bu Sham tribe (also reported to graze its herds southeast of the oasis), is occupied by Saudi Arabia (see Melamid, *op. cit.*, p. 204, footnote 23) and claimed

[1] [See p. 296.—Analyst]

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Trucial Oman MK4
Oman-MK1

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THE TRUCIAL COAST

The shore extending eastward from Qatar to the entrance to the Gulf consists of the shaikhdoms of Abu Dhabi, Dibay, Sharja, Kalba, Ras al-Khaima, Umm al-Quwain, and Ajman. Most possess shallow anchorages on an inlet; inland, they have few interests apart from access to wells, and their frontiers with Saudi Arabia are undemarcated.

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The interest they present from an international point of view lies largely in the success or failure in prospecting for oil. Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Ltd, which is, like its companion in Qatar, an affiliate of IPC has drilled test wells in both Abu Dhabi and Dibay, so far without success. The Shaikhdom of Abu Dhabi has, however, come into prominence on two other counts. First, its dealings with the company were in 1951 the subject of the noted arbitration case in which the Shaikh claimed the right to grant a concession to the Superior Oil Company under the sea-bed off his coasts. PDL lost their claim that their concession extended beyond his territorial waters. Exploration rights in marine areas have been granted to Anglo-Iranian off Abu Dhabi and to Anglo-Iranian in association with the Compagnie Française des Pétroles off Dibay.

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In 1952–3, pressure was exercised on the Shaikh from another quarter, Saudi Arabia. The oasis of Buraimi, which consists of eight villages and lies on the undelimited confines of Abu Dhabi and the Sultanate of Muscat, was partly occupied by a servant of the Saudi Arabian Government on grounds, contested by both the lesser rulers concerned, that the family had owned it in the nineteenth century and claimed title to its ancestral domain. It is likely that belief in the oil-bearing possibilities of these deserts precipitated this sudden claim. The Shaikh of Abu Dhabi and the Sultan of Muscat both sought and obtained some British diplomatic help in upholding their title to the oasis. The incident was important chiefly because it showed how unwise it is not to delimit such frontiers before they assume economic importance through the discovery of mineral wealth.

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MUSCAT AND OMAN

The area of this independent Sultanate[1] is estimated at about 82,000 square miles. It lies at the extreme south-east of the Arabian peninsula, and has a sea coast of some 1,000 miles facing south-east and east and extending from the frontier of the Sultanate of Qishn and Socotra (Eastern Aden Protectorate)

[1] Its status was affirmed by the Hague Court in the Muscat Dhows Case in 1905.

29:Dunn S-4 (1952)1952 MI Middle East
Hadhramaut MM2
Oman MK1
Trucial Oman MK4
Qatar MK3
Kuwait MI1

a plateau. Except for a few oases the land is not cultivatable without the use of expensive irrigation facilities. The hills are not as high or as numerous and rainfall is not as heavy as in the areas to the west. The agriculture now consists mostly of grain and fruit crops and grazing. The half million people have not been able to subsist on the land, and they normally import substantial quantities of grain as well as staples against exports of fruits. No significant development is expected here in the near future.

THE TRUCIAL COAST

The land area along the Arabian side of the Persian Gulf from the Oman Gulf to the Qatar Peninsula known as the Trucial Coast is owned by a group of independent sheiks who have various treaties with the United Kingdom giving the British virtual control over the area. This coastline is over 400 miles long, but the country is very hot, arid, and sparsely settled. Agriculture presently is negligible and opportunities for future development are thought to be extremely limited. The great hope is that oil will be found along this coast as it has been in adjacent areas.

QATAR

Qatar, another sheikdom on the Persian Gulf which has a rather exclusive treaty with the British, is one of the oil kingdoms that has become immensely rich overnight. For this reason Qatar may become a thriving community but not an agricultural economy. The Qatar Peninsula is not very large (about 5 million acres) and is very hot, arid, sparsely settled, and, like the rest of the coast, not susceptible to any extensive agricultural development.

KUWAIT

Kuwait, the other independent coastal area on the Persian Gulf under British protectorate, is another newly-rich oil community. In fact, this is one of the largest of the oil-producing areas. Proven reserves are thought to be half as large as proven reserves in the United States. Oil royalties ($200 million annually) are being used for many community development projects including some in the agricultural field. But the small arid area (5 million acres) and limited population preclude any extensive agricultural development.

Table 48

ADEN PROTECTORATE: Acreage and Production of Principal Crops 1948 and 1949

District and Crops	1948 Acreage	1948 Production	1949 Acreage	1949 Production
	Acres	Metric Tons	Acres	Metric Tons
West Aden				
Millet and Sorghums	60,000	12,000	62,000	12,000
Other Small Millets	10,000	1,500	9,500	1,900
Wheat	1,500	750	1,500	750
Barley	4,500	2,000	4,500	2,000
Sesame	10,000	1,000	8,500	800
East Aden				
Millet and Sorghums	20,000	4,000	20,000	4,000
Other Small Millets	2,000	500	2,000	500
Wheat	3,500	2,500	2,000	2,500
Dates	10,000	5,500	10,000	5,500

SOURCE: Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture.

63:Simmons et al G-5 (1941-1961) 1954
M1 Middle East
TRUCIAL OMAN MK 4

16

Trucial Oman

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

/3/ Trucial Oman is today one of the least-known sections of Arabia, but in former times it was notorious as the "Pirate Coast." The territory stretches from the Masandam promontory to Qatar, with a coastline of about 50 miles on the Gulf of Oman, from Khor al Kalba to Dibba, and of roughly 360 miles on the Persian Gulf, from Ras ash Shaam to Khor al Odaid, near the neck of the Qatar peninsula. A small enclave around Ras Masandam is under the suzerainty of the Sultan of Muscat. Inland, the frontiers extend to the Rub' al Khali desert, the "Empty Quarter" of Arabia, where the boundaries have not been clearly defined.

/4/ The region known as Trucial Oman comprises 7 independent sheikhdoms, each

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2: Codrai G-3 (1948-1950) 1950 MK1 Oman
Trucial Oman MK4
Bedouin MJ4

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721
TO
721
567

south of Sharjah. Certificates stating that they have been born into slavery (a lucrative business for the signatories) are purchased by their owners and the unfortunate victims may then be legally transferred elsewhere in 'Oman, or even to Saudi Arabia, where they are said to fetch a higher price. Most of the slaves who *are* the children of slaves are well treated, and are faithful to their masters, so that their existence is often a better one than that of the poorer 'Omanis.

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Within the next few years the search for oil is going to open-up this little-known country, and 'Westernization' will suddenly appear before its people; but, with conditions as they are, it will be some time before the way is prepared for the geologists and drillers. In the meantime, their appetites wetted by concession subsidies, the rulers of the Trucial Coast are fixing the boundaries of their lands, in order to avoid battle in the event of "liquid-gold" being found. In 'Oman proper it is more difficult, and unless the Imam and those in control of the rebel tribes can be won over, they may be expected to oppose not only the oil people but the Sultan himself.

TO
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p. 192(B)

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

E. TRUCIAL OMAN

Area

This region, formerly known as the Pirate Coast, extends for more than 300 miles from the Khōr el-'Odeid on the S. frontier of El-Qatar to the S. border of Ru'ūs el-Jibāl, the northern promontory of Oman; it receives its name from the permanent truce established between the five recognized ruling Sheikhs of **Abu Dhabi, Dibai, Shārjah, 'Ajmān,** and **Umm el-Qaiwein** by the agreement of 1853 with the British Government. Ru'ūs el-Jibāl (see p. 248) is an isolated district of the Sultanate of Oman, the Trucial frontier, between Ras Sha'am on the Gulf Coast and a spot between the villages of Dibah and Bei'ah on the Gulf of Oman, cutting it off from the bulk of the Sultan's territory. From Dibah-Bei'ah the eastern frontier follows the coast for about 50 miles to a point between Khōr Kalba and Mureir, where it turns inland, first westwards, then southwards, passing N. of the districts of Mahadhah and Jau, till it reaches that of Khatam; from this point the inland boundary is the edge of the Ruba' el-Khāli and Jāfūrah deserts, running more or less parallel to the Gulf. By far the greater part of the region, therefore, consists of low country along the Persian Gulf; only at the eastern extremity is there a mountainous district formed by the spinal range of the Oman promontory. The whole western part of this great area is little known and sparsely populated, the capitals of the five principalities affected by the truce all lying in the eastern portion.

The more important land communications of Trucial Oman converge upon the Bireimi oasis (see p. 282), which is connected by various routes with Abu Dhabi, Ras el-Kheimah, Dibai, Sohār, and Hasa. Many routes cross the peninsula, linking places on the two gulfs; such are those from Dibai to Shinās, Shārjah to Mureir, Umm el-Qaiwein to Fujeirah, and Ras el-Kheimah to Dibah.

Physical Character

The coast along the Persian Gulf is low and monotonous; the hills visible from the sea in the NE. section near Ras el-Kheimah soon recede from view. To the W. of Abu Dhabi the shore is lined by a labyrinth of shoals, reefs, and islands, rendering navigation difficult even for native boats. To the E. of that place it is open, but shallow, and exposed to the full force of the *Shamāl* (NW. wind).